



**SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC**  
**ATTORNEY-GENERAL**  
**LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**HELPING VULNERABLE FAMILIES THROUGH FAMILY LAW DISPUTES**

Vulnerable families, including those experiencing violence, will now have access to new and enhanced services to help them through family relationship breakdowns, with an additional \$9.87 million in funding from the Turnbull Government.

Speaking at the National Association of Community Legal Centres Conference in Canberra, the Attorney-General announced \$6.2 million had been provided for a new family dispute resolution service being piloted at eight locations across the country.

Family dispute resolution helps couples affected by separation agree on arrangements for their children, without going to court. This new initiative will offer specially tailored services that complement mediation with legal and culturally appropriate support.

Building on the Government's commitment to help those who need it most, the pilot will see Family Relationship Centres partner with specialists – like interpreters and legal, migrant and Indigenous-specific service providers – to deliver targeted support to families from Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.

These new pilots – part of the Government's \$100 million commitment under the Third Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* – will be delivered at:

- Tamworth, NSW – through Centacare New England North West
- Bankstown, NSW – through CatholicCare
- Sunshine, VIC – through Relationships Australia (Victoria)
- Broadmeadows, VIC – through MacKillop Family Services Limited
- Toowoomba, QLD – through The Corporation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba
- Upper Mt Gravatt, QLD – through Relationships Australia (Qld)
- Perth, WA – through Relationships Australia (Western Australia) and
- Darwin, NT – through Relationships Australia (Northern Territory).

The Turnbull Government is also providing \$3.67 million in additional funding over the next two years to the 65 government-funded Children's Contact Services across Australia, bringing their total Commonwealth funding to over \$17 million each year.

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Children's Contact Services help keep families safe. They provide supervised, safe and neutral contact and changeover locations, helping children in vulnerable families to maintain relationships with both parents. This additional funding will make this service available to more families and reduce waiting times.

The Turnbull Government is committing record funding to the legal assistance sector, providing over \$1.77 billion to legal aid commissions, community legal centres and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services over five years to 2020.

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